

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSF-01 ERDA-05 EB-07 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 021028Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2893

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 10847

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, UR, US

SUBJ: ENERGY AGREEMENT: GEOTHERMAL POWER STATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 170861; (B) MOSCOW 10747

1. SUMMARY - CHARGE MET WITH DEPMIN POWER MAKSIMOV AUGUST 1 TO PRESEN
T

US VIEWS ON CONTINUED SOVIET REFUSAL TO PERMIT VISIT BY US GEOTHERMAL
TEAM TO KAMCHATKA. MAKSIMOV ARGUED THAT NEITHER OF THE GEOTHERMAL
STATIONS ON KAMCHATKA ARE OF A STANDARD TO BE OF REAL TECHNICAL
INTEREST AT THE PRESENT TIME, STATED THAT THE MINISTRY -- AND
NEPROZHNY PERSONALLY -- HAD NEVERTHELESS MADE A STRONG EFFORT TO
OBTAIN A WAIVER OF SOVIET CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS TO PERMIT THE
VISIT, BUT HAD FAILED SINCE THEY COULD NOT DEMONSTRATE THAT THE
INSTALLATIONS ARE OF GENUINE INTEREST, AND STATED THAT A FURTHER
EFFORT WOULD BE MADE BUT THAT HE HONESTLY HELD LITTLE HOPE OF
SUCCESS. MAKSIMOV PROVIDED SOME TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TWO
STATIONS AND A PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM OF THE PAUZHETSKAYA INSTALLATION TO
SUBSTANTIATE HIS ASSERTION OF THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL INSIGNIFICANCE.
HE EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ENERGY

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AGREEMENT MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THIS MATTER, CLAIMING THAT THE

SOVIETS HAD TRIED TO BE UNDERSTANDING WHEN PROBLEMS ON THE US SIDE HAD PREVENTED US FROM MEETING ALL EARLIER COMMITMENTS. IN REGARD TO COOPERATION IN THE GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR AREAS, HE ASSERTED THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THESE AREAS, HAVE DONE RELATIVELY LITTLE IN THEM, AND THAT THE SOVIETS AGREED TO THESE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS BECAUSE OF US, NOT SOVIET INTEREST. THE SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR PROJECTS IF THE US DESIRES, BUT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO TERMINATING THEM IF THAT IS THE US DECISION. END SUMMARY

2. SINCE MINISTER NEPOROZHNY STILL OUT OF MOSCOW FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD, CHARGE MET AUGUST 1 WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION MASKIMOV TO DISCUSS CONTINUING US INTEREST IN ARRANGING VISIT TO KAMCHATKA GEOTHERMAL POWER STATION BY US GEOTHERMAL TEAM. L.A. TRUBITSYN, CHIEF OF MINPOWER MAIN TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION, ALSO TOOK PART IN DISCUSSION. MINPOWER FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION OFFICIALS ALSO PRESENT.

3. DEPMIN MASIMOV OPENED DISCUSSION WITH EXPLANATION THAT REFUSAL OF VISIT BASED ON CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO KAMCHATKA. HE SAID MINPOWER AND NEPOROZHNY PERSONALLY HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE "RESPONSIBLE ORGANS" REQUESTING AN EXCEPTION TO SUCH RESTRICTIONS FOR GEOTHERMAL POWER STATION VISIT. "RESPONSIBLE ORGANS" SAID TO HAVE DENIED REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF REFUSAL TO PERMIT VISIT, ON GROUNDS THAT MINPOWER COULD NOT PRESENT SUFFICIENTLY STRONG CASE IN SUPPORT OF VISIT TO WARRANT SUCH ACTION. MAKSIMOV STATED NEPOROZHNY WILLING TO RAISE QUESTION AGAIN WITH "RESPONSIBLE ORGANS". EVEN THOUGH HE HAS ALREADY BEEN REPROACHED FOR SEEKING EXCEPTION WITH INSUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION BUT HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT PERMISSION FOR VISIT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

4. MASIMOV ATTRIBUTED MINPOWER INABILITY TO CONVINCE "RESPONSIBLE ORGANS" OF ADVISABILITY OF VISIT TO LACK OF ANY REAL REASONS FOR US GEOTHERMAL TEAM TO VISIT KAMCHATKA. OF TWO POWER STATIONS IN KAMCHATKA, ONE WAS CLOSED DOWN TWO YEARS AGO (PARATUNSKAYA EXPERIMENTAL FREON STATION), AND OTHER IS IN POOR CONDITION WITH STEADILY DECREASING OUTPUT AND HIGH GENERATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COSTS(PAUZHETSKAYA GEOTHERMAL POWER STATION). ONLY PARATUNSKAYA, SHUT DOWN IN 1973, OPERATED ON BINARY CYCLE. IN MINPOWER VIEW, THERE IS THEREFORE NOTHING OF INTEREST TO SEE IN KAMCHATKA. RESEARCH DATA AND RESULTS OF EXPERIENCE WITH TWO KAMCHATKA STATIONS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US GEOTHERMAL EXPERTS THROUGH USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. NOTHING OF MAJOR VALUE HAD COME OF EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS IN KAMCHATKA AND MINPOWER HAD NO PLANS FOR ANY FURTHER RESEARCH INVOLVING THE TWO POWER STATIONS.

MAKSIMOV EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT US SCIENTISTS WOULD AGREE WITH MINPOWER CONCLUSION THAT VISIT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE ONCE THEY BECAME AWARE OF THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION. HE ATTRIBUTED US CONTINUING INTEREST IN VISIT TO "MISUNDERSTANDING" OF NATURE OF FACILITIES IN KAMCHATKA. VISITS TO OTHER AREAS WHERE GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED - NEAR TBILISI AND IN DAGESTAN (OPEN AREAS WERE SUGGESTED AS ALTERNATIVES.

5. MAKSIMOV CONTINUED WITH LENGTHY REVIEW OF BACKGROUND TO QUESTION OF KAMCHATKA AND HISTORY OF JOINT GEOTHERMAL COOPERATION. THE POINT OF WHICH WAS TO SUPPORT HIS CONTENTIONS (1) THAT KAMCHATKA VISIT HAD BEEN US IDEA, WHICH MINPOWER SOUGHT TO ARRANGE SIMPLY AS COOPERATIVE GESTURE. (2) THAT KAMCHATKA VISIT COUNTED FOR VERY LITTLE IN LARGER SCHEME OF USEFUL JOINT COOPERATION, AND (3) THAT GEOTHERMAL COOPERATION AS A WHOLE WAS UNDERTAKEN BASICALLY TO ACCOMMODATE US WISHES, AND, WHILE MINPOWER WILLING TO CONTINUE COOPERATION IN THIS AREA, ATTACHED NO GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO IT.

6. CHARGE REVIEWED IN DETAIL ARGUMENTS PROVIDED IN REFTEL A, STRESSING THAT KAMCHATKA VISIT INTERESTING TO US AS OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE BINARY CYCLE POWER STATION AND TO COMPARE GEOLOGICAL SETTING WITH SIMILAR ONES IN US, AND DESCRIBING US OFFER TO SHOW DIFFERENT PROCESSES IN CALIFORNIA AND LOS ALAMOS. INTEREST OF US TEAM IN BENEFITTING FROM SOVIET EXPERIENCE, SUCCESSFUL OR OTHERWISE, WAS STRESSED. MAKSIMOV RESPONDED TO PRESENTATION OF US POSITION WITH REITERATION OF MINPOWER CONVICTION THAT VISIT WOULD ACCOMPLISH NO USEFUL PURPOSE FOR US GEOTHERMAL EXPERTS.

7. MAKSIMOV PRESENTED CHARGE WITH INFORMATION SHEET CONTAINING DATA ON BOTH KAMCHATKA POWER STATIONS AND PHOTO ALBUM DEPICTING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PARTUNSKAYA EXPERIMENTAL FREON STATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPERATIONS, FOR TRANSMITTAL TO US GEOTHERMAL EXPERTS. PHOTO ALBUM FOLLOWS BY POUCH. COMPLETE TEXT OF INFORMATION SHEET FOLLOWS:

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R 021028Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2894

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QUOTE.

INFORMATION/KAMCHATKA GEOTHERMAL POWER STATIONS:
TWO GEOTHERMAL STATIONS HAVE BEEN BUILT IN KAMCHATKA:
PARATUNSKAYA AND PAUZHETSKAYA.

(1) PARTUNSKAYA EXPERIMENTAL FREON STATION OF THE
SIBERIAN BRANCH OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR.
POWER - 400 KWT. HEAT- TRANSFER AGENT - THERMAL
WATER OF THE PARATUNSKAYA SPRINGS WITH TEMPERATURE -
80 DG C. CYCLE-FREON. INTRODUCED IN 1971. WORKED TWO
MONTHS WITH STATIC LOAD 200-400 KWT AND IN 1973 CLOSED.
INACTIVE TO THE PRESENT TIME.

(2.) PAUZHETSKAYA GEOTHERMAL POWER STATION. ESTABLISHED
POWER - 5,000 KWT (TWO TURBINES OF EXHAUST STEAM TYPE
MK-2.5 AT 2.5 KWT., DISMANTLED AT OLD POWER STATIONS
IN THE CENTER OF THE COUNTRY). PARAMETERS OF STEAM -
P EQUAL 1.2 MINUS 2.5 ATA. TEMPERATURE EQUAL 104 DG C - 250 DG C.
BECAUSE OF LOWER PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE OF STEAM (1.3 ATA AND
120 DG C) THE POWER OF THE POWER STATION WAS SET AT
3.4 MWT. MAXIMUM PROTRACTED STATIC LOAD IN JULY, 1975 -
2.8 MWT, MINIMUM - 1.2 MWT.
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AVERAGE DAILY PRODUCTION 40,000 KWT HRS.

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY:

1973 - 18,365 MILLION KWT HRS.

1974 - 15,310 MILLION KWT HRS.

1ST HALF 1975 - 7,5000 MILLION KWT HRS.
THE POWER STATION IS IN UNSATISFACTORY TECHNICAL
CONDITION.

CHIEF ENGINEER
MAIN NORTH EAST POWER ADMINISTRATION
M.A. SHUVALOV

END QUOTE.

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN POSITION TO DETERMINE
ACCURACY OF RELEVANCE OF SOVIET TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS. UNLESS
SOVIET ASSERTIONS ARE TOTAL MISREPRESENTATIONS, IT DOES APPEAR
THEY THEY DO NOT HAVE A CURRENTLY OPERATIONG GEOTHERMAL STATION ON
KAMCHATKS WHICH UTILIZES THE BINARY CYCLE, SINCE THEY CLAIM THAT
THE PARATUNSKAYA EXPERIMENTAL STATION CEASED OPERATIONS IN 1973.
MAKSIMOV'S CLAIM THT THE MINISTRY HAS MADE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT
TO OBTAIN A WAIVER OF SOVIET CLOSED AREA REGULATIONS IS
PLAUSIBLE BUT OF COURSE UNPROVABLE.
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